



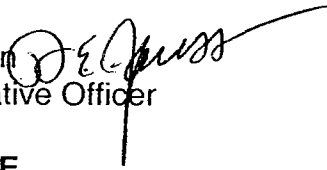
County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

October 5, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen 
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations

Last week, the Conference Committee on the FFY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations bill (H.R. 2360) completed its work. Both houses are expected to approve the conference report by the end of the week, clearing the bill for the President's signature. The bill significantly reduces funding for the two biggest homeland security grant programs. State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG) funding is cut in half from \$1.1 billion in FFY 2005 to \$550 million, and High-Threat Urban Area Grant funding from \$885 million to \$765 million. Funding levels for other Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant programs of County interest are shown in the attached table.

The bill includes significant increases in funding for immigration enforcement activities. Of particular County interest, the bill appropriates \$5 million for training state and local law enforcement officers to perform limited immigration enforcement functions, such as those that would be performed by the Sheriff's custody staff pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sheriff and DHS. The bill also includes an additional \$9 million for immigration enforcement agents, \$42 million for criminal investigators, and \$18 million for the Institutional Removal Program.

As previously reported to your Board, the Senate version included language from a homeland security grant bill, S. 21 (Collins, R-ME), which would provide states with a sliding baseline minimum floor of no less than 0.55 percent of total funding. The conferees rejected this language, and, instead, retained the current 0.75 percent small state minimum requirement pursuant to Section 1014 of the PATRIOT Act.

The conference report includes language of County interest, including:

- Provides that the restriction on the use of homeland security grant funds for construction does not apply to the erection of communications towers, which are included in a jurisdiction's interoperable communications plan;
- Requires the General Accountability Office to review and report back to Congress by no later than November 17, 2005 on the threat and risk factors used by DHS to determine High-Threat Urban Area Grant and other discretionary grant allocations; and
- Requires DHS to report on the status of catastrophic planning, including evacuation planning, in all states and the 75 largest urban areas by February 10, 2006 and that the report include certifications from each state and urban area on the exact status of evacuation plans, the dates such plans were last updated, the date exercises were last conducted using the plans, and plans for sustenance of evacuees.

Pursuit of County Positions on Legislation

First Responder Interoperable Communications Grants: In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the problems encountered by first responders in communicating with one another, there is heightened interest in improving interoperable communications. On September 22, 2005, the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee approved S. 1725 (Collins, R-ME and Lieberman, D-CT), the "Assure Emergency and Interoperable Communications for First Responders Act of 2005." The bill would establish a new grant program to assist States and eligible regions in improving emergency communications and interoperability. An eligible region is defined as two or more contiguous counties, cities, or other general purpose jurisdictions that have joined together to enhance emergency communications capabilities or interoperability between first responders and that includes the largest city in any metropolitan area.

This bipartisan bill also would establish at least two pilot projects to develop and evaluate strategies and technologies for maintaining emergency communications in the event of a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or other emergency in which there is major damage to critical infrastructure. The selection criteria for the location of the projects would include an area's risk and number of potential victims from a large-scale terrorist attack or natural disaster and an area's existing emergency communications system capabilities. Also, on September 22nd, Senator Boxer introduced S. 1762, which would authorize competitive grants to states and localities to improve interoperable communications. Her bill was referred to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

The Federal Agenda adopted by the Board on February 8, 2005 included policies to support:

- Increased funding for emergency preparedness and response and improved communications systems;
- More effective targeting of homeland security and first responder funds based on relative need, population, and threat levels;
- The direct allocation or pass-through of an equitable share of state block grant funds to counties for first responder and homeland security funds to counties;
- A regional approach to homeland security and emergency preparedness; and
- Proposals and funding to improve the capacity of state and local governments to plan, prepare, and respond to emergencies, including those involving acts or terrorism as well as natural disasters.

Based on these policies, the County's Washington advocates will support:

- Legislation, such as S. 1725 and S. 1762, which would provide grants to improve emergency communications systems;
- Targeting available funding based on the relative need for improved emergency communications systems, taking into account the risk of terrorism and natural disasters and number of potential victims and first responders who would have to communicate with one another in an area.
- Support the direct allocation of funds to regions, including the County, or, at minimum, the pass-through of an equitable share of funds to the County if grants are made to State governments rather than directly to the regional or local level.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MT:jm

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist

**PROPOSED FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2006 FUNDING LEVELS
FOR PROGRAMS OF COUNTY INTEREST IN H.R. 2360
HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS BILL
(in millions)**

PROGRAMS	Enacted 2005	President 2006	House¹ 2006	Senate² 2006	Conference 2006
State Homeland Security Grant ³	\$ 1,100	\$ 700	\$ 750	\$ 0	\$ 550
State and Local Assistance ³	0	0	0	1,538	0
Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention	400	500	400	400	400
High-Threat Urban Area Grants ³	885	1,200	850	0	765
Rail and Transit Security	150	0	150	100	150
Port Security	150	0	150	200	175
Emergency Management Performance Grants	180	170	180	190	185
Firefighting Grants	650	500	575	550	545
SAFER ⁴	65	0	75	115	110
Urban Search and Rescue Teams	30	7	7	30	20

Footnote

- ¹ In H.R. 2360, as passed by the House on May 17, 2005.
- ² In H.R. 2360, as passed by the Senate on July 14, 2005.
- ³ The Senate version consolidates the State Homeland Security Grant and High-Threat Urban Area Grants into a new State and Local Assistance account.
- ⁴ SAFER refers to the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighting Program.